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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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Date: November 9, 2001

Subject: Final Inspection at the Forked Creek site, Celotex Corporation, Wilmington, Illinois, October 23, 2001

From: Karen A. Vendl
Federal On-Scene Coordinator

To: File

Background

In 1967, Celotex Corporation purchased a property at the confluence of Forked Creek and the Kankakee River in Wilmington, Illinois in order to manufacture roofing materials and builder's paper. On September 26, 1997, U.S. EPA performed a site assessment at the site as a result of a request by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and numerous citizen complaints. During the site assessment, three areas of the Site were noted to be filled with petroleum-based materials similar to those used in roofing material manufactured by Celotex. The petroleum-based materials ran along portions of the southern bank of Forked Creek and along portions of the eastern bank of the Kankakee River. An oil sheen was observed on the water surface adjacent to the asphalt material.

On March 1, 2000, an Administrative Order by Consent (V-W-94-C-242) became effective between the U.S. EPA and Celotex Corporation regarding cleanup of the Forked Creek site in Wilmington, Illinois. The order required Celotex to perform the following actions:

- a. In the "Removal Area" (2 such areas were noted on the map attached to the Order):
1. Prepare and implement the site health and safety plan;
 2. Secure the Removal Area for the duration of the removal activities;
 3. Remove and dispose of, and/or grade and cover, the visible deposits of petroleum-based material on the river bank within the Removal Area;
 4. Backfill all excavated areas;
 5. Stabilize the excavated river and creek banks with riprap or other appropriate material to minimize erosion;
 6. Transport and dispose of all waste materials in full compliance with Federal and State rules and laws;
 7. Perform all work in accordance with State and Federal regulations;

b. In the "Site River/Creek Bank":

1. Prepare and implement the site health and safety plan;
2. Secure the Site River/Creek Bank for the duration of the removal activities;
3. Remove from the surface of the Site River/Creek Bank pieces of petroleum-based debris that are greater than one cubic inch and less than one cubic foot;
4. Dispose of the petroleum-based debris in full compliance with Federal and State rules and laws;
5. If, as a result of Post Removal Site Control, Celotex discovers that Debris has been exposed on the Site River Creek Bank, take additional actions.

Celotex is required to conduct post removal site control as follows:

- 1) inspect the Site River/Creek Bank, and remove petroleum-based debris from the surface of the Site River/Creek Bank, and
- 2) inspect and repair any damage to the cover of the Removal Area.

This post removal site must occur once in each of the following calendar years: 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2006.

Discussion

The removal activities in the Order began on March 13, 2000 and were completed on March 17, 2000. On May 17, 2001, Celotex Corporation submitted a revised Final Report to U.S. EPA which summarized the actions taken to comply with the Order.

On October 23, 2001, OSC Karen Vendl and Richard Murawski (ORC) conducted the final inspection of the cleanup at the Forked Creek Site with representatives of Celotex Corporation. The attached photos were taken during the final inspection. The time of the inspection was approximately 10:35 to 11:00 am; the temperature was in the low 50s, and it was overcast. River and creek levels were high due to previous rain events.

All 3 areas at which removal activities were required by the Order were observed during the site inspection. The first area seen was the "Removal Area" on the bank of the Kankakee River. The bank down to the river appeared to have been excavated and stabilized with visqueen, sand gravel, and boulders. No petroleum-based material was seen in this area (see Figures 1 and 2 attached to this report.)

The second area seen was the "Site River/Creek Bank". No petroleum-based debris was seen along this section of the site.

The third area was the "Removal Area" along Forked Creek. Like the "Removal Area" along the River, this section appeared to have been excavated and stabilized with erosion control materials. No petroleum-based materials were seen in this area (see Figures 3, 4, and 5 attached to this report.).

There were no oils or sheens visible along the river and creek banks.

Conclusion

The cleanup of the Forked Creek site, Celotex Corporation in Wilmington, Illinois is complete, and all requirements of the Order have been fulfilled. It is the opinion of OSC Vendl that a Notice of Completion letter be sent to Celotex Corporation.